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A JOB WELL DONE BY ALL

It's Day 16 or so of the Ice Storm Crisis. Thousands of people are still without power in some areas. You might have noticed you're getting one issue of The Nation on top of another. This is because our production office was without power for most of the time, but we're back up and running.

This editorial is going to be short, to the point and simple.

Congratulations to all Crees. I personally went to the South Shore and entered the infamous Triangle of Darkness. There I saw for myself the wretched conditions. It was appalling but also uplifting in a way.

It was uplifting because I saw all the assistance that the Crees provided to the needy people of the South Shore area. I have nothing but praise for the chiefs and councils, entities and people for their fast reactions and responses to the crisis.

My mother told me that one Elder in the community had said she found it a bit of a turnaround to be sending aid to the south.

That in itself is true. It also meant that Crees really had no contingency plans for emergency aid measures to the south and this made the responses all that more amazing. I think that the Cree Nation as a whole can be proud of itself. We all came together and did what had to be done.

People cut wood, stacked it, cooked food, came to the Montreal area to help out, donated money, paid for hotel rooms, gave up generators, provided trucks and equipment, free flights and the list goes on.

If in any of the stories on the Cree relief missions, I missed mentioning assistance, please feel free to give us a call. I wish to acknowledge all the aid that was given by Crees and their entities.

In the next issue I also hope to mention all those who tried to profit from other's misfortunes. Then if you wish to boycott these profiteers, you will know who the cold-hearted are.

For now, here in Montreal, I say to all in the Cree homeland, be proud because of what you did. A people sleep easier tonight knowing that the Crees cared and helped out. Miikwaach.

by William Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Les Renards

photo: unknown

design: Katerina Cizek



My dear mom, Louisa.

We must be one of the luckiest nations in the entire universe. At least in terms of health care and whatever else we enjoy for free. But that doesn't mean these services should... for lack of a better word... suck the way they do. I'm sure you've heard and probably have a few horror stories of your own.

There's the one about the guy who went to his community clinic complaining of back pain. The nurse either didn't believe he was in real pain or just couldn't be bothered, and set him home with painkillers. When the pain didn't go away he went back and asked to be sent to see a specialist. He was refused so he paid his own way to Val d'Or. He was told if he hadn't come when he did he would have lost his ability to walk.

Then there's the one about an elderly lady who complained of hip pain. The doctor performed a perfunctory examination and sent her on her way. They later found that she had a hip fracture. But it was way too late. She died of blood poisoning.

Still another one about a young woman who went to see a dentist. She's not sure how it happened but her face swelled up to the size of a watermelon a few hours later and she had to be flown out.

They might say things like this happen all the time and that no one's perfect. But they seem to be happening more back home if you believe the stories people tell.

My mother, God bless her, was unfortunate to go through a similar experience but she doesn't have the heart, so to speak, to complain. Picture this: Christmas eve, she's walking home from church and she has to stop to rest four times. The next morning she can't even lie down so she sits on the couch. She's so weak she can't even lift her arms. My sister calls the clinic and asks the nurse to send a car. They reply, "Can't she walk over?" (My mom's in her seventies.) My sister tells them no. "Can she come over by ski-doo?" they ask. "Just send the damn car over!" I scream across the living room. My mom's hovering close to death and still she's telling me to be polite.

The ambulance... or what passes for one... arrives and she's off to the clinic. They tell us she has to be "med'evaced" out to Val d'Or. I am to "escort" her.

A real ambulance is on the tarmac at the Val d'Or airport when we land. My mother

is immediately placed in intensive care but she's starting to feel better. Her heart rate at the clinic had shot up to the 90's and was now down to a comfortable 65. They keep her under observation for a few days while I wait in the Cree patients' home. It is just the bare essentials here and three meals a day plus a TV. It is nearly full. A few days later, more patients arrive and they're placed in the scuzziest motel in town. A place I stayed in more than once when it was all I could afford. But that's another story.

At last my dear mom is allowed to go and she is given a prescription of three or four different pills and a patch similar to one they give to smokers who want to quit. The doctor tells us she will go to the clinic herself to pick up the pills. The next day our ride to the airport arrives. My mom's medication still hasn't arrived. I ask the driver about it so she stops at the hospital. She comes out a few minutes later with what I - luckily - recognize as the wrong prescription. I tell her. She tells me they'll put them on the plane the next day and drives us to the airport. I say something rude to her. Something about a lawsuit.

We're waiting to board when she comes back with a plastic bag from the drugstore. The doctor had left the right medication behind the counter.

by Ndiamon

the Nation

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PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS



WAS AGING HQ NETWORK THE WEAK LINK?

Hydro-Quebec and Premier Lucien Bouchard are under the gun for the handling (or mishandling) of the Storm of the Century.

The Nation has obtained information that suggests Hydro-Quebec's power system may have disintegrated so quickly because it was propped up by aging, outdated towers, some so old they should have been replaced 20 years ago. Many were erected around World War II. They didn't have a prayer of going toe-to-toe with El Nino.

Nearly 80 per cent of the high-voltage towers that collapsed in the storm were over 30 years old and some were as old as 70. They were brittle contraptions that snapped like toothpicks when the most devastating storm in Canada's history blew in.

The towers also may have been inadequately maintained due to recent cutbacks and mass layoffs at Hydro-Quebec, possibly contributing further to the disaster. Over the years, Hydro workers warned their bosses several times of the danger of the aging power system, but nothing was done, according to a utility employee who requested anonymity.

As we went to press, Hydro was expected to release a detailed study of what went wrong in its system. For now, leaders of Hydro's unions are keeping quiet on whether the aging network contributed to the disaster, saying they will wait for the utility's analysis before commenting.

But Louis Champagne, president of the Hydro engineers' union, said any analysis cannot avoid looking at how the aging system and falling maintenance levels may have contributed to a calamity that cost at least 24 lives and \$1.5 billion. "We have to look at this. It's an

interesting hypothesis that we can't ignore," Champagne said.

One of Hydro's top executives confirmed that 800 of the over 1,000 towers that collapsed were built 30 or more years ago. Many of the downed towers were actually older than 50 years, the normal life expectancy of a power-transmission tower, Yves Filion, HQ's deputy director-general and head of finances, told *The Nation*.

Since these older towers were built, Hydro has improved its tower design to make it safer. But only 230 of the collapsed towers, or 20 per cent, were made to the newer, more secure design. In the storm, the older sections of the system came crashing down almost right away, but eventually even the newer towers were overwhelmed.

Filion acknowledged that the aging towers were "more vulnerable" to the storm. Many were made from wood, not steel as in the newer design. "The older towers were more vulnerable, but not because of age. It was because of the design criteria," he said.

Surprisingly, Hydro-Quebec has no norms for when a tower should be replaced, according to Raymond Gravel, another HQ union leader. Gravel said "a majority" of the downed towers were over 40 years old.

Over at Ontario Hydro, newer lines survived the storm with less damage than older ones. "Certainly our newer lines didn't collapse. We didn't see the same level of destruction as on the older lines," said Al Manchee, Ontario Hydro spokesman.

"An old line is going to be more vulnerable when you push it to its design limits," said Ian Goodman, a Boston, Mass. energy consultant. "It's the weakest link that decides if the whole thing collapses."

by Alex Roslin

HYDRO IGNORED LESSONS OF THE PAST

Premier Bouchard and Hydro-Quebec say the Ice Storm Disaster was impossible to foresee and prepare for.

But we did get a warning. A wild storm lashed into the Lanaudiere region east of Montreal at the same time last year, the beginning of January. The 1997 storm dropped 50 mm of frozen rain, causing iced-up trees to crash down on power lines and towers. A blackout left thousands with no power for eight days.

Did the government or HQ learn anything from this crisis? It appears Quebec never made emergency plans to handle a repeat of the '97 storm. In other areas of North America, such planning is mandatory. B.C. Hydro, for example, regularly runs simulations of dam failures, earthquakes and even a failure of the entire system to make sure it's ready. B.C. Hydro's emergency plans are widely distributed to the public, while HQ guards its plans as tight as the CIA.

"They did absolutely nothing," said Louis Champagne, president of the HQ engineers' union. "They didn't take into account the disaster that could happen. The question was not even posed. If it could happen in Lanaudiere, it could happen in Montreal. They didn't even study it."

Hydro-Quebec's legendary arrogance and lack of openness to the public served it and the public poorly during the crisis that hit Montreal, say energy experts.

"I think Hydro has had its eyes on other things than its own customers," said John Birkham, spokesman for the Quebec group Mouvement Au Courant and himself an engineer. "Since (Andre) Caille took over (as Hydro chairman), the strategy was to build more production and exports. They took their Quebec customers for granted."

"Appalling risks were taken by the system. Now we're paying the price," said Robert McCullough, a Portland, Oregon energy consultant, who said HQ decisions should be opened up to outside scrutiny to make sure mistakes aren't repeated.

"If Hydro-Quebec was more regulated, this kind of thing (proper emergency planning) would have been done," said Ian Goodman, a Boston, Mass. energy consultant. "I'm very concerned we're going to get more of the same in the future."

-Alex Roslin

operator get me the # for 911

Letter to *The Nation*:

It is nice of you to print a James Bay Cree telephonebook but where and when did you get the Waswanipi list. It is so obsolete. It looks like a 1995 listing of our local (computered generated) directory. perhaps next time you can be more updated by contacting our Band office.

A friend

Ed note: Our list in Waswanipi disappeared three times. We sent a list to the band council for people to check their numbers. It was hard to have up to date numbers when the list got stolen three times. We did eventually get a phone list from the Waswanipi Band Council. Thanks for the interest and suggestions. This was our first Cree phone book. We hope to have less mistakes and thefts next year.

bables@large

This is just a note to express my gratitude to the Nation in 1997. I like the glow-

ing critique on books (Books Vol. 5 No. 2 December 19, 1997. Some of the Nation's powerful passages are to feel pain, and love to feel love. We the readers forget our Nation editors are still young in the profession. I think cree@large is really good. I like it.

Margaret Sam Cromarty

www.thenotion.com

Letter to *The Nation*:

The Grand Coucil web site this month contains the following notice:

This web-site congratulates The Nation, the Cree-owned magazine published in Montreal, on having published its 100th issue. Published since December 1993, this is the boldest media published effort ever undertaken by Eeyou and the founders are to be congratulated for their resounding success! Great work!

Allow me to add my personal congratulations on your achievements, and those of all your staff. You're doing a great job!

Best wishes,

Boyce Richardson, Web-site helper



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*The Mayor, Counselors and the citizens of Val d'Or would like
to take this opportunity to wish everyone
in the Cree Nation a Happy 1998.*

*We thank you for your continued support and friendship throughout 1997.
It is with great joy that we offer you our support and friendship throughout 1998.*

*Ronald Tetrault
maire*



WHAT COLOUR IS YOUR SNOWMOBILE?

A strange letter arrived at Polaris Canada headquarters in Winnipeg. An anonymous Chibougamau resident was writing to complain of "a problem" at the local Polaris franchise, which was taken over by the Ouje-Bougoumou First Nation.

The resident described him/herself as a "fans" of Polaris for "a good dozen years until the Indians became the owners." Since the people of Chibougamau are "very racist," the letter-writer says "the best solution would maybe be to give them (the Natives) a franchise in Ouje-Bougoumou and a second one to Chibougamau."

"I believe there is room for both in this regions, which the product Polaris was very strong," wrote the resident in French. "I believe you should verify the number of sale of snowmobiles at this date."

Polaris headquarters forwarded the letter to Chief Abel Bosum of Ouje-Bougoumou, who normally probably wouldn't have given it much thought. The problem is sales at the Polaris store are in a bad slump. Is it because of racism? Bosum doesn't know.

"We don't know how widespread this thinking is," he said. "It could be just one unsatisfied customer or it could be 100. We just don't know."

In its first year, the dealership did very well, capturing 40 per cent of the Cree market, up from 25 per cent before. This year, sales have dropped 35 per cent compared to last year.

Bosum has heard that some residents are driving all the way to St. Felicien for products that cost the same price, just because they don't want to do business with Native people. He

remembers the fate of a gas station in Chibougamau owned by some Mistissini residents that went out of business in part because of racist sentiments.

"This was an issue when we put in the bid for the franchise. The argument was raised by the other bidders," said Bosum. "Our business plan didn't have a colour. It was the best one. That's how we got it."

"I found it shocking. It's completely racist," said one Chibougamau businessman of the letter.

Joanne Grenon, a former president of Chibougamau's Intercultural Committee and *The Nation's* sales director, said her committee was very concerned by the letter and did some checking to see what is behind it. "No one to date has said they agree with it," she said. "They think it's terrible."

Grenon found that while a small group of racist residents refuse to shop at O.J.-owned Ou J'Ai des Sports, sales are down at all three snowmobile dealerships in town. Business has suffered from a combination of no snow and a mine that closed last fall, putting 400 out of work.

Grenon noted that membership in the local snowmobile club has fallen from 800 members in January 1996 to 250 this year. "People are paying more attention to their pennies."

Owing in part to the economic climate, competition between the city's three snowmobile dealers has grown fierce, other sources said. The bidding process for the Polaris franchise was also on the aggressive side and some wonder whether one of the losing bidders is trying to turn people against O.J.

by Alex Roslin

WATER DEBATE WARMS UP

Opposition is growing to Quebec's plan of selling water to the U.S.

A coalition of unions, environmentalists and other groups denounced a recent symposium organized by the Quebec government on making money off water. They say the government is hiding what it's doing and stifling public debate.

On the table is the idea of exporting water and selling municipal water systems off to private companies. The coalition wants a moratorium on hearings into any such plans and hearings held by the Bureau d'audiences publiques en environnement.

SPORTS DRINKS: YES OR NO?

Sports drinks like Gatorade are as harmless as they are useless. At least that's what Dr. Francois Peronnet, of the physical education dept. at the University of Montreal, believes. Athletes engaging in exceptional and sustained physical effort, like Ironman triathletes, may need a sodium supplement, he says, but sports drinks are made mostly from water and sugar and do not have enough sodium to make their consumption helpful. A drink of water is enough to rehydrate your body after a regular workout, and a healthy diet will provide all the glucides and mineral salts you need.

-Source: *Air Canada inflight magazine*

BE THE POWER!

Native people in Arizona are busy fighting off corporate buzzards, religious nuts and government sluggos who are trying to take their land.

Under seige is the area of Big Mountain, home to the Dineh and Hopi peoples in northeast Arizona.

Learn more about their story at an evening organized by Indigenous Peoples International and other groups at Concordia University, January 30, 7 p.m. (Visual Arts Building, 1395 Rene-Levesque W., room 114, info: 848-7443).

DAISHOWA SLAPP SLAPPED

David Suzuki has lent his voice to support the Lubicon Lake Crees. "The

continued on page 9

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continued from page 7

boreal forest in Alberta has been essentially given away to companies like Mitsubishi and Daishowa for \$1.40 per ton of pulp which on the market will bring \$900," said Suzuki.

"We have this ludicrous situation of a multinational company from Japan--which is not only given our forests but given massive subsidies to exploit those forests--now using Canadian courts to SLAPP Canadian citizens and prevent them from speaking out."

The SLAPP is another American trend making its way north of the border. The Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation is used by companies to shut down anyone who is hassling them about environmental destruction, shifty corporate practices, etc.

Next month, a decision is awaited on a SLAPP lawsuit fired by Daishowa, a Japanese-based logging multinational, against the Friends of the Lubicon. The company sued for alleged losses because of the Friends of the Lubicon organized a highly successful boycott of Daishowa's forest products. The multinational is seeking punitive damages and a permanent injunction barring any boycott of its products in Ontario. Daishowa already obtained a temporary injunction to that effect on January 23, 1996.

In support of the Lubicon, the group Amitie Lubicons-Quebec organized a demonstration at Daishowa's paper mill in Quebec City.



The boycott movement had picked up steam all around the world, with dozens of companies and organizations signing on. To crush the boycott, Daishowa hired a Vancouver law firm that used to work for the Lubicon and had complete access to all Lubicon files, including confidential documents. When the lawsuit began in court last September, the Lubicon presented a motion to have Daishowa lawyers removed from the case for reasons of conflict-of-interest. Justice James MacPherson refused to do so.

In 1989, Alberta granted Daishowa logging rights to 29,000 square kilometres of forest that includes the Lubicon territory, which has never been ceded in a treaty. Logging and oil interests have

decimated the Lubicon way of life. Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak is worried about the future.

"After these many, many years of struggle, we are still a proud people. It's nice to see others who are prepared to stand up for what they believe in. More importantly, they're prepared to stand up for our community. That means a whole lot for our community," he said.

Info: (514) 844-0484.

CAMBIOR DISASTER "PREVENTABLE"

The Cambior cyanide disaster in Guyana was a "preventable accident," according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency document deposited at Quebec Superior Court.

Cambior has demanded a permanent injunction against a Montreal group that is helping the thousands of mostly Native victims of the mass cyanide spill.

In its defense, the group Recherches internationales du Quebec filed the EPA report. The EPA sent observers to Guyana in South America after the 1995 spill of three billion litres of cyanide-laced sludge into an Amazon river network.

"The rupture of the dyke could have been foreseen, if not avoided," wrote the EPA agents, adding: "Since the mine has been open, the vast majority of the work has gone into extraction of the minerals and only a minimal effort went into environmental protection."

Chill, bloods and ofays

A truly wild pair of books came our way not too long ago, the Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang.

In total, it's 1,700 pages of all the English slang ever used in America spanning the last 300 years, divided into three back-breaking volumes.

The last volume covers words beginning P to Z, and it's not out yet, so I couldn't find out what "twentythree skidoo" means. We had to make do with A-O.

Which, of course, includes the all-important F-words.

Flipping toward the Fs, I stopped at an entire page devoted to the history of the word "bastard," defined as "contemptible

individual." Interestingly, one of the first times "bastard" saw print was in Shakespeare's *Henry V*: "Ish a villain, and a bastard, and a knave, and a rascal."

Although most white people don't know that "ofay" means "white person," that's the slang word used by some Black Americans. Apparently, there was even once a band called the O'Fays, white boys who wished they were black.

The word "blood" or "youngblood" first came on the scene in the Sixties, as in: "What's up, blood?" One army boy wrote in his diary that you have to be careful how you use it. "One black guy got highly insulted when a white guy called him *blood*. He threatened to bite off the white guy's nose."

"G-man" was first used by the Irish for the British secret police, but was later applied to the FBI. As in: "I gave a G-man a double sawski so he let me go."

As predicted, the 14 pages of the F-word's history made for hilarious reading, which unfortunately has no place in a highly respected family magazine such as this. The first recorded use was in 1680 when some aspiring poet wrote: "Thus was I Rook'd of Twelve substantial F---s." Right on down to the present day and the song which goes, "LBJ's a f---in' A."

Until next time, chill and live large. You know you got the mojo, the get-go and the say-so. Yo!

-Alex Roslin

RANDOM HOUSE HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SLANG, VOLUMES I & II

BY J.E. LIGHTER

RANDOM HOUSE, TORONTO, 1994 & 1997

APOLOGIES TO "LES RENARDS"

By Delores Audet-Washipabano

Last October, I wrote an article in *The Nation* about the Cree Nation Bears tournament where I said the "Cree Nation Bears" were the "first Cree hockey team to join a structured league."

Well, well, history caught up with me and I am writing today to apologize to THE TRUE FIRST CREE NATION HOCKEY TEAM that joined a structured league. I'm talking about the hockey team "LES RENARDS" and I would like to share some of their story with all of you.

The year was 1966-1967. "Les Renards" (which means "The Foxes" in French) was a midget hockey team made up of Cree hockey players attending the residential school in La Tuque that year.

School was not always fun or easy for them. It was often very difficult. But there was something that helped ease the long winters for those young Native students. There was a game that nourished their soul, that floated through their veins....there was HOCKEY! And Crees can play that game!

At that time, there was a hockey league in the La Tuque region. It was a league of "Midget A" calibre, the highest level of midget hockey in the area.

And the Cree boys from residential school were ready to play in the league. Their team was made up of the BEST NATIVE HOCKEY PLAYERS of 1966-1967.



Front Row (left to right):

Abraham Bearskin, defense, Chisasibi
Joseph Neeposh, forward, Mistissini
Edward Gilpin, goalie, Eastmain
Sherman Herodier, defense, forward, back-up goalie, Chisasibi
Joseph Shecapio, forward, Mistissini

Back row (left to right):

Alfred Gilpin "A", forward, Eastmain
Leonard House "A", defense, Chisasibi
George Matches (young bantam), defense, Chisasibi
Steven Lameboy "C", forward, Chisasibi
Coon Matoush, defense, Mistissini
President of the Midget "A" League
Samuel Iserhoff, forward, Chisasibi
Mr. Davis, Head Coach
Fred Georgekish, forward, Wemindji

The league played in five cities in the La Tuque region. The colours of the sweaters worn by "Les Renards" were yellow and black. It was a tough league. We're talking about a "body contact" league.

The "Les Renards" season was more than they had dreamed. They played so well, they won the championship that year! According to the memories of one the players, George Matches, the arena was packed that day. Most of the audience was rooting for La Tuque, and clearly expected them to win. But the Native boys, who came from a little residential school, suprised everyone and proved they were worth a lot! This picture, with them holding the 1966-1967 Championship Cup, was taken right after the winning game. (Their faces say it all!)

That year, they all also played two exhibition games against "Pointe Bleue", another Native hockey team, which was not in the League, but entered tournaments. The "Pointe Bleue" team had a perfect score on all of their trips....until they faced "Les Renards". The only two games "Pointe Bleue" lost that year were the two exhibition games against "Les Renards". And guess what? "Les Renards" were never invited to play against "Pointe Bleue" again. (Wonder why!?)

Also, in the middle of the season, four of the "Renards" players were selected to join the All Star Team made up of four players from each team in the League. From the Renards they were; Leonard House, Edward Gilpin, Steven Lameboy and Samuel Iserhoff. The All Stars game was played against an All Star Team from Montreal....which also got a taste of the Renard power. Montreal was soundly beaten by our northern boys.

During that All Star Game, you could see these men looking very intently at the players and taking notes. Well they were scouts ...and at the end of the season these four Renards were approached by the scouts and invited to a Junior camp the following season.

Unfortunately, for all kinds of reasons, no one attended the camp.

And guess what? The following hockey season, "Les Renards" were not allowed to re-enter the Midget A League as a "Native Hockey Team". They were only allowed to play if they split up their team and spread their players around into the other hockey teams in the league....(Wonder why?!) Easy! THEY WERE TOO STRONG!

Now listen kids! (Oops! I sound like one of those colourful hockey announcers with a funny tie!) If you meet any of these "Renards" on the street, or inside an arena (that's where they usually still hang around), well you can look to "Les Renards" and you can ask them to talk to you about the GAME OF HOCKEY and their long journey filled with courage and determination that took them to the top that year. And ask them to tell you about hockey being the key to their success at school.

So, I was wrong about the "Cree Nation Bears" being the first team to join a league and my apologies go to "Les Renards". Thank you for allowing our youngsters to know where their passion for hockey comes from and for being the ones that skated a pathway for today's young talents.

Well, time changes, but Cree hockey talent remains the same!

Although I was not around then, and didn't have a chance to see any of their games, I would like to congratulate "Les Renards" for their 1966-67 season! Would you believe you still have fans thirty years later!!!!

Way to go FOXES !!

Many thanks go to George Matches for sharing his story and to Rosemary Matches for translating it to me. If any "Renards" have additional stories to share about these very interesting hockey days, please contact George and Rosemary Matches in Chisasibi, or me.

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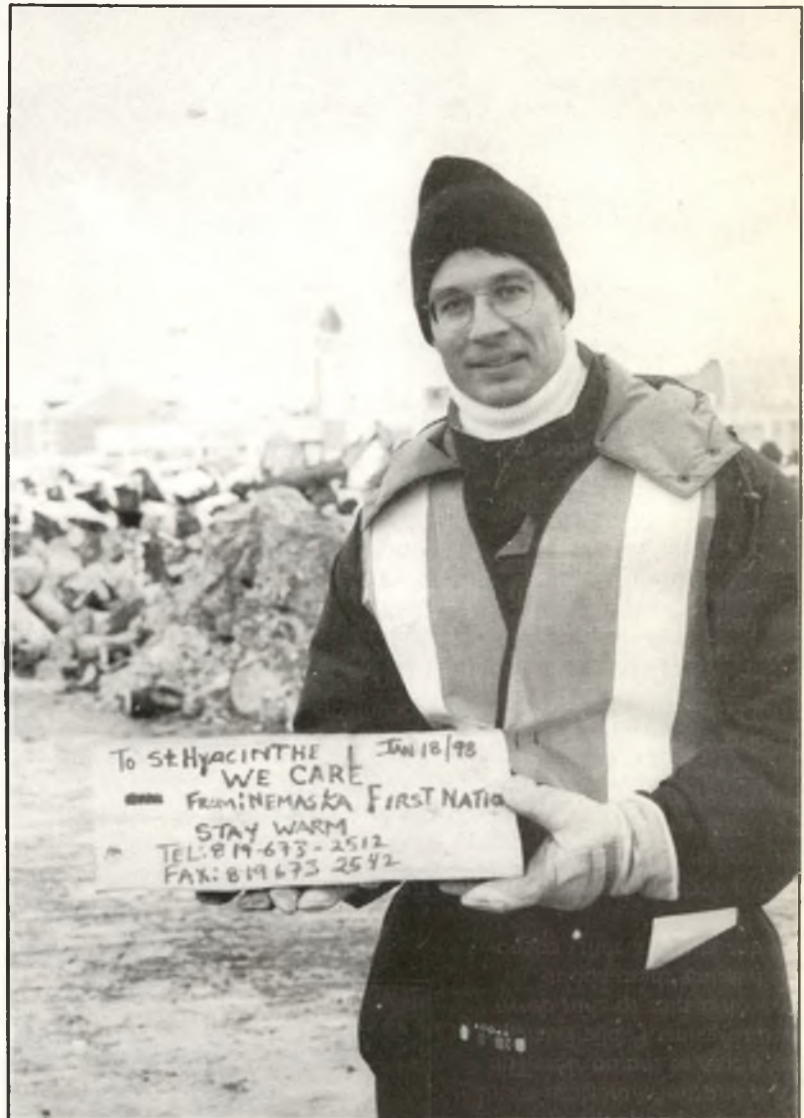
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REACHING OUT

CREES SEND RELIEF MISSION TO SOUTH SHORE

By William Nicholls

**"THANKS
FOR THE
WOOD"**



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

Patrice Furlan coordinator of the wood lot.

Cree communities in James Bay are working hand-in-hand with non-Native towns in the North to send help to Montreal-area residents hit by the ice storm.

Hundreds of volunteers came forward in Mistissini to chop trees into firewood, load it onto trucks for transport to the south, donate their own winter wood supplies and raise money. Crees have already sent several truckloads of firewood in a moving van to the South Shore.

"People got fed up with watching all the tragedy down south. Here we



Micheal Smith and Andre Gaumond

were with the power on and comfort but we felt so helpless. We had to do something," said Mistissini Chief William Mianscum.

A local resident came up with the idea of sending wood. "We checked it out and wood was on the list of things needed. So we started to talk to people. Now the whole town's helping out," said Willie MacLeod, community-development director with the band council.

Mistissini quickly found 100 men and 40 women volunteers to make four tree-cutting camps. Others in Mistissini are cooking food for the volunteers, and many residents have given up their winter supplies of wood to send south. A goal of 500 firewood cords, or 20,800 cubic feet, of split dry firewood was Mistissini's objective. Thirty men in Mistissini split the wood donated by locals.

"I think we'll meet that 500 cords goal," said MacLeod at the start of the project, adding that the band would be calling other Cree communities to help out. To date, they have actually sent down more than the 500-cord goal and have cut 1,000 cords.

When the meeting calling for volunteers and action was held, it had to be moved to a larger building because so many people showed up looking for ways to help. "The whole community has come together to do this," said Thomas Coon, vice-president of the Cree Trappers' Association. "The trappers are proud to be part of this relief mission. We aren't the only ones. All I can say is I am proud that we are trying to do something to help out."

The Mistissini Recreation Association also sent down its brand new, one-week-old generator. "I don't know if we'll get it back but we couldn't keep it while knowing people were freezing," said an association official.

Chief Mianscum also got on the Cree regional radio to talk to all Crees. "We told the other eight communities what we were doing and said if you can find it in your hearts to help out then do it," he said.

Two forestry companies, Barrette-Chapais and Chantiers Chibougamau, have donated forestry equipment and workers to haul the trees to the road. Chibougamau residents have joined the effort by donating mechanical wood-splitters. The moving vans were provided by Martell Express.

Nemaska hits the bush

When you drive through St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, you feel you are entering another world. The towers you see on TV are there in front of your eyes bent into weird twisted shapes. All the military vehicles remind you of some U.N. peace mission. They're everywhere and they are cheerfully pleasant and in their element.

Power poles broken everywhere. No traffic lights are working and when you see a building light on, it seems there is the ever-present sound of a generator. In the middle of this Erland Campbell and myself went searching for wood. We had heard that Nemaska showed the ice storm disaster victims they had heart. Nemaska went and sent 100 cords of firewood in record time. The truck left Nemaska on Sunday, January 18, and was due to arrive Monday at about 1:00 p.m. The Nation news crew arrived while the wood was being unloaded.

Even though it seemed a huge mound of wood was there already, residents of St. Hyacinthe were pleased to see the wood. They know how fast it goes.

Andr_ Gaumond and Michael Smith, two local residents, said they were quite glad to see the wood and to tell the people up North thanks for the wood. Gaumond added, "We'll help if something happens there."

Thomas Jolly, of Nemaska, said the effort was something to see. "We have a small population and everyone helped out. It took us four hours to load the truck and even the Elders were on the line to load the wood," said Jolly. In fact, the truck was so tightly packed



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Cont'd from page 14

with wood that some people were afraid it was overloaded and might not make it.

Patrice, one of the organizers in St. Hyacinthe, also thanked Nemaska and Mistissini for stacking the wood neatly. "This isn't to put anyone down because all the help was needed and appreciated but it made things easier. Thanks again for the help and caring to the Crees," said Patrice. He also said they would be presenting the local mayor with one of the pieces of wood to commemorate the help they received from the North.

Some Nemaska residents have brought the extra wood that couldn't fit on the truck to the Mistissini effort. Several Nemaska locals also joined the Mistissini wood cutting teams.

Nemaska also donated \$5,000 to the Canadian Red Cross.



Air Creebec helps out

Only one airline, Air Creebec, responded to emergency calls for free trips out of Montreal for people hit the hardest by the storm.

Canadian, Air Alliance and other airlines didn't follow Air Creebec's example of offering free seats to storm victims, according to Air Creebec's reservation supervisor Debbie Simpson. "An employee of Air Alliance mentioned to us that they thought it was great and wished that their airline would do the same," she said.

Air Creebec put aside free seats on every flight heading out of Montreal, said Air Creebec president Albert Diamond.

"When people are in trouble, everyone has to help," said Diamond. "People have cried on the phone while thanking us. It's been very emotional."

Air Creebec assigned six seats per flight to Val d'Or or Rouyn-Noranda. The only stipulations were that the people were needy and had relatives in the area that they can stay with. Air Creebec gave priority to the elderly, women and children.

Con't on page 17

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15TH ANNUAL CHISASIBI INVITATIONAL SENIOR HOCKEY & BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

On behalf of the Chisasibi Sports & Recreation Association, we would like to inform you of our 15th Annual Chisasibi Invitational Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament.

We are officially inviting you to participate in our tournament.

A new division has been added in the Broomball Category.

There will be a Recreational and Competitive division this year, it will be on a trial basis under certain given conditions. Enclosed is the registration form to be completed and returned with your entry fee no later than February 18th, 1998.

DATES: February 26, 27, 28 & March 1, 1998

PLACE: Job's Memorial Gardens, Chisasibi, Quebec

ENTRY FEE:

CLASS "A"	\$1,000.00
CLASS "B"	\$ 800.00
Competitive BROOMBALL	\$ 800.00
Recreational BROOMBALL	\$ 300.00 <small>(** Minimum 5 teams registered)</small>

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: February 18th, 1998 (5:00 p.m.)

Photocopy of Cheque should be faxed no later than February 18th, 1998 (5:00 p.m.)

CASH PRIZES

PRIZES	Class "A"	Champions	\$6,000.00
		Finalists	3,000.00
	Class "B"	Champions	4,000.00
		Finalists	2,000.00
COMPETITIVE	Broomball	Champions	4,000.00
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RECREATIONAL	Broomball	Champions	1,000.00
		Finalists	500.00

Plus: Championship trophies, fleece sweaters & individual awards

NOTE: Any team who wishes to make changes after the official schedule has been done will have to pay \$100.00 before the change(s) can be made.

For more information please contact John Pash or Stella M. Bearskin at (819) 855-2878 ext. 315.

Please make Certified Cheque or Money Order payable to:

Chisasibi Sports & Recreation Association

P.O. Box 668

Chisasibi, Quebec, J0M 1E0

Tel: (819) 855-2878 Fax: (819) 855-2875

THIS TOURNAMENT IS ORGANIZED FOR THE INTENTION OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND IN BROTHERHOOD.

Cont'd from page 15

Other communities

Ouje-Bougoumou has sent down generators. Waswanipi is raising money and has already sent funds to pay for hotel rooms for some of the ice storm victims. "We're doing as much as we can and will be looking at other ways to help," said Chief John Kitchen.

Margaret Cromarty phoned in to say that Chisasibi was also sending down wood. I contacted Edward Tapiatic, of the local CTA. He said Chisasibi has a project called the Woodshed Program where they hire six people to cut wood during the coldest months. "When we heard about the ice storm another six people were hired to cut wood. Kepa Transport agreed to take the wood to where it was needed," said Tapiatic.

In fact, Kepa Transport had already been bringing wood to the beleaguered South Shore residents. According to Mary Bogellic, Kepa's director of operations, they had been bringing wood from Val d'Or on a regular basis. "We've done over 20 trips already," said Bogellic.

Chisasibi also raised \$10,000 as part of their participation in the Ice Storm Relief, of which \$5,000 went to the Red Cross and the other \$5,000 went to assist Crees in Montreal.



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RACING UPDATES

CCMQ

News from the racing world. The crowd in Mistissini saw an action-packed program at the community's Sno-Cross/Cross-Country Camoplast Championship. For two days, racers competed on a course where a lack of snow made the going sluggish. Two "spectacular" accidents slowed the program the first day, reported Le Sentinelle of Chibougamau.

Mistissini speedmeister Kenny Gunner was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd when he roared to victory in the Pro 600cc. Curtis Bosum, Danny Gunner and Isaac Etapp, all three saddled up on Polaris, were also in top shape. In the amateurs, Etapp came up with a first place on the Saturday and a 3rd on Sunday. Gunner got a second place on Saturday and 1st on Sunday.

Of major note was Semi-Pro Eric Potvin on a Polaris who got four 1st place wins and one 2nd, a remarkable performance for the young racer.

In the women's contests, Nathaly Savard on a Ski-Doo swept to three wins in three starts. Her rival of last year, Taria Coon of Mistissini on Polaris, took two 2nd positions.

To the Ouje-Bougoumou Sno-Cross/Cross-Country Camoplast Championship. Serge Audet of Chibougamau powered his Arctic Cat to three victories in O.J., the 500cc and 600cc. In Pro 440cc, Kenny Gunner on Polaris took the gold, while Brian Coonishish on Ski-Doo disposed of his rivals in Semi-Pro 440cc.

In amateurs, the top three were (in order): Shawn Coonishish, Isaac Etapp and Shawn Neeposh. In women, 1st-place Lydia Iserhoff dropped Nathalie Savard in 2nd, followed up by Taria Coon in 3rd.

Congratulations to all participants and organizers for the races.

Raid des Braves

Finally, the Raid des Braves. Yes, you've probably heard of it. The Raid is funded by the SDBJ, the puppet arm of Hydro-Quebec charged with developing the North, Iyiyuuschii. SDBJ president Don Murphy is also the Raid's chairman. Last year, he told us the Raid is "a message. We want to sell the North as a real part of Quebec to the rest of Canada and the world-as a territory where three ethnies live in harmony, together and have projects together. We want to show the modern side of the North with Natives implicated in real jobs," real jobs like "mining, forestry, tourism."

This is not to take away anything from the racers, team organizers, Cree and non-Native sponsors and many volunteers who make this an exciting event. It is an amazing endurance contest for the teams that is a testament to the limits of human will, perseverance and ingenuity. The race has attracted interest around the world because anyone can see it is one of the ultimate contests of human endeavour. Sadly, these are probably not the reasons we see Chantiers Chibougamau, Barrette Chapais, Cambior, Hydro-Quebec and the Troilus Mine on the list of Raid sponsors.



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Getting Ready for Valentine's Day

This year, show your honey how much you love him/her by serving these heart-smart recipes at a candlelight dinner for two.



Chocolate Cheesecake

Follow these three steps and spend Valentine's Day with this delicious hunk. And don't worry about love handles - if you use Philadelphia cream cheese, you're getting 60% less fat than butter or margarine.

1. Mix two bricks of softened cream cheese with 1/2 cup sugar, 2 eggs, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, then add 4 squares semi-sweet chocolate, melted.

2. Pour mixture into graham crumb crust. (recipe below)

3. Bake at 350F for 40 minutes or until centre is almost set. Refrigerate for at least three hours. Garnish to your heart's desire.

Graham Crumb Crust

1 1/2 cups graham wafer crumbs

1 Tbsp. sugar

1 egg white

In a small bowl, mix together the graham crumbs and sugar. Add egg white. Stir until well blended. Press crumb mixture firmly over bottom and part way up sides of 9 inch pie pan. Bake just until edges feel firm and dry, about 8 minutes. Be careful not to overbake. Set aside to cool. Then enjoy. -Deantha

Low-Fat Lasagna

Ingredients:

1/2 lb lean ground beef

3 cloves garlic, chopped

1/2 tsp cayenne pepper

1 tsp pepper

1 Tbsp flour

Breadcrumbs

1 Tbsp mL olive oil

1/2 onion, chopped

18 oz. can crushed tomatoes

1 tsp oregano

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1/2 cup yoghurt

1 cup cottage cheese

1 Tbsp grated mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 350F.

Cook the pasta in boiling water for 8 to 10 minutes and drain.

Heat the oil in a frypan and fry the meat until brown. Drain any excess fat from the pan. Add the onions and cook until soft. Stir in the tomatoes, garlic, oregano, cayenne, lemon juice and pepper and stir for 5 minutes.

Layer the lasagna strips and meat mixture in an overproof dish. Blend the yoghurt and flour and pour over the top. Spread the cottage cheese over all and sprinkle with breadcrumbs and grated mozzarella. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes.



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WHEN MISFORTUNE STRIKES THE CREES ARE THERE TO HELP

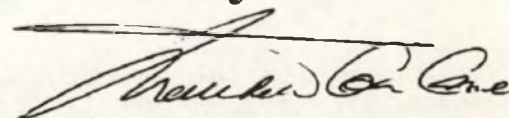


When the ice storm hit Montreal and the surrounding areas, the Cree communities and entities were reminded of different times in the past in the Cree lands. The Cree people have also experienced hard times, so our hearts went out to the people in the south. We saw people without electricity, and as a result of this, without warmth in their homes, without the ability to cook for their families and in many cases without proper food or medicine. The Crees know how to live without electricity so we sent what we knew would be useful.

We sent firewood and provided shelter. Air Creebec provided free airplane rides for those from the icy south who could go live with relatives or friends in Val d'Or and Rouyn.

I congratulate those who accomplished what needed to be done. This is our tradition, to help those in need.

**Let us all be thankful and proud of those
who had the foresight to carry this out!**


Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come



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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE





Société de développement de la Baie James

A Fruitful Partnership

The Société de développement de la Baie James (SDBJ) was created to encourage the economic development of the James Bay territory.

SDBJ is offering its resources and expertise to create, and also to maintain projects that are beneficial to both natives and non-natives in the region.

The SDBJ is especially interested in promoting economic projects that create harmonious relationships between the native and non-native populations.

SDBJ support can take the form of making introductions with other interested developers, or offering financial aid, under certain conditions.

Please contact the following offices listed below for further information:

Mr. Alain Coulombe
Corporate Development Agent
110 Matagami Blvd., P.O. Box 970
Matagami (Quebec)
JOY 2A0
Telephone: (819) 739-4717
Fax: (819) 739-4329

Mrs. Manon Cyr
Mr. Patrick Houle
Economic Development Agent
462, 3rd Street, Suite 10
Chibougamau, (Quebec)
G9P 1N7
Telephone: (418) 748-7777
Fax: (418) 748-6868

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The ULTIMATE Entrepreneurial Resource Guide

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE — ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Aboriginal companies are a dynamic and growing presence in Canada's economy. There are over 20,000 Aboriginal businesses in Canada, active in every sector of the economy.

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These following agencies are there to help you by providing key services and business support.

SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA BAIE JAMES

SDBJ was created to promote investment and development in the James Bay Territory for both natives and non-natives. They provide assistance in the creation of new businesses and maintenance of existing ones.

Their emphasis is on projects that create harmonious relationships between native and non-native populations.

FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT

While they provide financial support, they also provide key introductions to other interested parties, for example, other entrepreneurs and investors who could greatly enhance the viability of your proposed business.

PRIORITIES

They are looking to develop businesses in these areas: roads, airports, mines, buildings and tourism. They will also consider other economic development activities that may be beneficial for the betterment of the territory. Please contact the following offices listed below, for further information.

Mr. Alain Coulombe
Corporate Development Agent
110 Matagami Blvd., P.O. Box 970
Matagami, Qc. J0Y 2A0
Phone: (819) 739-4717
Fax: (819) 739-4329

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462, 3rd Street, Suite 10
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EYYOU ECONOMIC GROUP / CFDC INC.

As their motto goes: For Crees, By Crees and With Crees for tomorrow. Eeyou Economic Group (EEG) can help you whether you are already on your way or just taking your first tentative steps in the world of business.

TRAINING

They can help you with training to improve your computer skills, bookkeeping skills and in other business-related fields to aid in achieving your goal.

FINANCING

With its investment budget, Eeyou Economic Group CFDC Inc., is able to provide up to a maximum of \$75,000 per project. In 1998-99, EEG has \$1 million to invest in Cree businesses. They hope to

The ULTIMATE...

help develop 30 business plans this year.

ELIGIBILITY

The promoter must be Cree and beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

The project must be realized in Cree territory

The project is supported by a Band Council resolution or by an agreement in principle with the local Band Council.

Must submit a complete business plan

Promoter must provide 20% of the total investment personally.

DEVELOPING YOUR BUSINESS PLAN

EEG can help you develop your professional plan in two ways.

1. Call them and purchase their do-it-yourself business starter kit for \$40.

2. EEG in conjunction with Haido Kloo, a Native consulting group, is providing technical services to existing and upcoming business ventures in various ways. EEG would also be able to refer individuals, who have made formal requests for assistance, to other consultants who can help develop their business plans. The cost of such a service is the sole responsibility of the individual.

EEG is currently seeking a resource person to help you with your business ideas and to provide expertise in creating your business plan.

AFTER CARE

For those who already run a business, EEG is also currently offering an after-care program, again with the consultants from Haido Kloo. If you have a business but are experiencing some problems, or want to improve your business, you might want this service.

CONTACT

Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc.

3, Highway 113

Waswanipi, Qc. J0Y 3C0

Robert Kitchen, Director General

Phone: (819) 753-2560

Fax: (819) 753-2568

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

A lot of information, financing and support can be provided by your local economic development officer, who will do their best to point you in the right direction. It's their business to help you to reach your goals. "So, put that sledge hammer down and pick up the telephone instead".

Call your local resource person listed below:

Jimmy A. Fireman, President
Wiichihiituun Devel. Corp.

Phone: (819) 855-3380

Lawrence Jimiken
Nemaska Band

Phone: (819) 673-2512

Marlene Kitchen
Waswanipi Cree First Nation

Phone: (819) 753-2587

Maria Kawapit
Whapmagoostui Band

Phone: (819) 929-3384

John Brown
Eastmain Band
Phone: (819) 977-0211

Jack Diamond
Waskaganish Band
Phone: (819) 895-8843

Bradley Georgekish
Wemindji Cree Nation
Phone: (819) 978-0264

Bernie Perlman
Ouje-Bougoumou Eeyou Co.
Phone: (819) 745-3906

Donald MacLeod
Mistissini Band Council
Phone: (418) 923-3461

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The economic development division of the CRA plays a supporting role to your local economic development agencies. For example, the CRA makes sure that your local economic development officers (EDOs) have everything they need, at their fingertips, to support entrepreneurs and business development in the communities.

The CRA also helps communities, EDOs and entrepreneurs to access Federal and Provincial government program funding. Although they normally deal with the EDOs (who are working on your behalf), you are also welcome to call the CRA yourself.

CRA - Economic Development Division
Montreal Offices

514- 861-5837

514- 866-1234

Entrepreneurial Resource Guide

ABORIGINAL BUSINESS CANADA

Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) provides business services and support to Aboriginal people. They concentrate on small businesses owned and controlled by Native entrepreneurs.

ELIGIBILITY

Canadian status and non-status Indian, Inuit or Métis.

Association, partnership or other legal entity, wholly, or partly owned and controlled by aboriginal people.

3. Business can be on or off reserve.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

1. Developing business plans or undertaking feasibility studies
2. Establishing new businesses or joint ventures
3. Increasing technology use in business
4. Marketing activities designed to increase sales
5. Business support activities such as hiring professionals or management training
6. Advocacy activities which benefit more than one firm and further Aboriginal businesses.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support is available in either repayable or non-repayable loans. Most loans do not have to be re-paid. The maximum contribution is \$75,000. You need to personally invest a minimum of 10% or 15 % cash equity in your proposed venture.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR INVESTMENT BY ABC

Youth Entrepreneurs, tourist businesses, innovations to your business, or expansion of your business are priority areas for Aboriginal Business Canada.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

Today, some 68 percent of Aboriginal Canadians are under the age of 30. The youth represent an important, growing pool of potential business owners and employees. For this reason, Aboriginal Business Canada is placing priority on supporting initiatives that encourage Aboriginal youth to get into business. This includes financial support, preparing business plans, developing your business idea, developing business skills and other training (with emphasis in the area of applying computer technology skills to business).

Individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 years are eligible for support. In addition, Aboriginal Business Canada's support for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards helps to ensure that business

and youth achievements are promoted and celebrated.

TOURISM

In recognition of the booming tourism business, a market in increasing demand, ABD supports individuals and communities in their efforts to develop distinctive Aboriginal cultural tourism and ecotourism businesses that are commercially viable yet remain sensitive to Aboriginal values.

INNOVATIONS

Many Aboriginal firms are being innovative and using new technology to expand. For instance, call them if your business could expand or improve using a new technique or technology.

TRADE AND MARKET EXPANSION

Many Aboriginal firms are already experienced at trading outside of their local markets. Many are expanding their sales into regional, national and even international markets. Is your business ready to expand? Perhaps to other communities, or to the south? This program is for you.

Regional Office

Aboriginal Business Canada

Montreal, Quebec

Phone: (514) 283-1828

Fax: (514) 283-1843

Contact: Peter Paul

THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK OF CANADA

The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) has an initiative called "Growth Capital for Aboriginal Business". The BDC helps to increase access to capital (ie money) and management support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

FINANCING

ABC can provide loans up to \$100,000 for existing businesses and up to \$25,000 for start-ups with customized management support.

ELIGIBLE FOR THESE ENTREPRENEURS:

1. With a commercially-viable business proposal
2. With management experience
3. Demonstrating a financial commitment
4. Willing to take part in a mentorship program
5. Operating on or off reserve

For more information, please call:

Business Development Bank of Canada

5 Place Ville Marie

Montreal, Quebec

(Phone) 1 888 INFO-BDC (1-888-463-6232)

Computer Technician

DUTIES: Under the authority of the Director of information systems and technologies, the holder of this position performs the development and support of the new computer systems, centralized, decentralized or of office automation type. He/she provides the support to the users in the running of the systems.

He/she insures the maintenance of the equipment and softwares in order to maintain the required level of functionality. He/she plans and installs the various equipment and softwares.

- The holder of the position must have a CEGEP diploma with a specialization in Computer Sciences from an establishment recognized by the “Ministère de l’Éducation” or an attestation of significant studies which the equivalence is recognized by the competent authority
- He/she must have five (5) years of experience
- Moreover, he/she must have good knowledge in the following sectors:

- Installation and maintenance of servers, workstations, printers and other peripherals.

Tel.: (819) 855-2844



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 Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

WHAT IS YOUR

RESOLUTION FOR 1998 ?



Andrew Weistche
"Let my beard grow."



George L. Diamond
"This year I'm not quitting anything. I'm just going to do more things. That's my resolution."



Freddie Jolly
"Not to feast too much."
(gained 16 pounds over the holidays!)



Terry Beauregard
"Stop smoking and taking care of my health. Exercise."

Gertie Murdoch
"Save a tree, Scrap the Nation."



George Trapper
"Stop smoking." (Smoked since 11 years old.)



Charlotte Petawabano
"Start losing weight and keeping it off."



Gregory Jolly
"Come to work on time and make the boss happy."



Angus Whiskeychan
"To let the family know there's only one boss in the household. What I say goes from now on."



Ricky Mark
"@#&*%+@!
Leave me alone!"



Mistissini Sports & Recreation

Cree Nation of Mistissini, Quebec

On behalf of the Minor Hockey and Broomball Association and the Mistissini Sports and Recreation Department, we are pleased to inform you that our Annual Minor Hockey and Broomball Tournament will be held in Mistissini on February 12, 13, 14 & 15, 1998.

ANNUAL INVITATIONAL MISTISSINI MINOR HOCKEY & BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

We are officially inviting you to participate in our Annual Minor Hockey and Broomball Tournament. The registration form must be completed, signed and returned with the inscription fee no later than **February 6, 1998**.

CATEGORIES	TEAMS	INSCRIPTION FEE	CHAMPIONS	FINALISTS
Bantam Hockey	Eight (8)	\$350.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00
Midget Hockey	Eight (8)	\$350.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00
Juvenile Broomball	Eight (8)	\$350.00	\$1,500.00	\$750.00

**Additional Prizes: Trophies and Medals will be awarded to the Champions and Finalists.
Individual awards will also be presented to all categories.
Prize money may vary depending on the number of teams that register.*

THIS TOURNAMENT IS ORGANIZED FOR THE INTENTION OF
GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND GOOD FRIENDLY SPIRIT.

****NOTE:
DEADLINE FOR INSCRIPTIONS IS FEBRUARY 6, 1998.**

For more information contact Jean-Baptiste Loon or Robie Petawabano
at the Recreation Office (418) 923-3461.

Would You Rather ...

sleep with:

Valentine's Day is coming, and you know what that means... if you're single, you have to find something really awesome to do so you don't feel all alone and crappy on the most romantic day of the year. This year, round up all of your unattached sisters (and brothers) and play Would You Rather. This game can always be counted on for a few good laughs. For those of you who have never played it, here's what is important: anything goes! Here are some examples of choices you have to make - and remember, you HAVE to choose one or the other! Sometimes, you just KNOW that you are better off single, rather than decide between some of these pathetic picks...

Graham Greene or Tom Jackson
Matthew Coon Come or Phil Fontaine
Claude MacKenzie or Florant Volland of Kashtin
Buffy Sainte Marie or Susan Aglukark
Shania Twain or Tina Keeper
Lucien Bouchard or Jean Chretien
Peter Mansbridge or Dennis Trudeau
George Bush or Ronald Reagan
Barbara Bush or Nancy Reagan
Margaret Thatcher or the Queen
Rosie O'Donnell or Oprah
Phil Donahue or Jerry Springer
David Letterman or Jay Leno
Brad Pitt or Keanu Reeves
Pamela Anderson or Anna Nicole Smith
Cindy Crawford or Claudia Schiffer
KD Lang or Ellen
Rita MacNeil or Roseanne
Michael Jackson or Latoya Jackson

Bryan Adams or Corey Hart
Madonna or Courtney Love
Marylin Manson or Alice Cooper
Gene Simmons or Mick Jagger
Tina Turner or Diana Ross
Erland Campbell or Erland Ice Campbell
Jack or Larry (Three's Company)
Janet or Chrissy (Three's Company)
Mr. Roper or Mr. Ferley (Three's Company)
George or Kramer (Seinfeld)
George's mother or Jerry's mother (Seinfeld)
Homer or Barney (Simpsons)
Moe or Apu (Simpsons)
Selma or Patty (Simpsons)
Mr. Burns or Smithers (Simpsons)
Ross or Chandler (Friends)
Phoebe or Rachel (Friends)

This game does not always have to be about sleeping with this person or that person. It can be about anything - what would you rather eat, who would you rather be, etc. etc. It can get pretty gross at times, depending on who you are playing with. Have fun - and if you think of any other good ones, let me know! ...Deantha



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JOB POSTING

JUNIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

→ *Beesum Communications, a Cree-owned communications company which also produces and publishes The Nation Magazine, is currently seeking an individual to fill the position of Junior Graphic Designer.*

IDEALLY CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Complete proficiency in the following programs; Quark Express, Pagemaker, Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand.
- Previous Design Experience
- Native American origins

THE NATION WILL BE OFFERING:

- Guidance by the Senior Art Director
- A variety of challenging and creative graphic design projects
- Flexible work hours
- Salary based on experience and projects undertaken

All applicants must be of Aboriginal Ancestry and willing to relocate to Montreal.

Students in the final years of a recognized Graphic Design Program are also encouraged to apply.

All interested candidates are encouraged to forward a cover letter and resume to:

The Nation
Art Department
5678 Park Avenue
P.O. Box 48036
Montreal, Quebec
H2V 4S8

or by fax to: 514-278-9914

The logo for 'The Nation' magazine, featuring the word 'the' in a small, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'Nation' in a large, stylized, cursive script font.

JOB POSTING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

→ *Beesum Communications, a growing Native-owned graphic design company which also publishes and produces The Nation Magazine, is looking to fill the position of administrative assistant.*

Working with the Directors of Marketing and Finance, this person will assist in the financial and marketing duties for The Nation Magazine. Duties include but are not limited to; preparing advertising lists, proofing advertisements, filing, business correspondence and general office work.

The position would also include assisting in the administration of Beesum Communications' projects. Beesum has a growing number of creative, graphic design and printing contracts with the Federal Government, Quebec Government and numerous Native organizations.

IDEALLY CANDIDATES WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Proficiency in Word Perfect or Windows 95, Excel or Lotus,
- Excellent organizational skills and phone manner
- Self motivation and punctuality
- Ability to work in a team as well as alone
- Business minded
- Ability to write professional business correspondence

The candidate must be of Aboriginal Ancestry and willing to re-locate to Montreal. The candidate must also be completely proficient in spoken and written English. The ability to speak Cree and/or French will be considered a definite asset.

Salary and benefits will be based on experience.

All interested candidates should send a short cover letter and resume to:

All interested candidates are encouraged to forward a cover letter and resume to:

The Nation
Art Department
5678 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 48036
Montreal, Quebec, H2V 4S8

or by fax to: 514-278-9914

The logo for 'The Nation' magazine, featuring the word 'the' in a small, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'Nation' in a large, stylized, cursive script font.

The Twilight Zone BY THELMA & LOUISE

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) Happy Birthday Aquarius. According to astral charts everything should be hunky-dory. But hey, let's get real. You're dealing with Thelma & Louise here and things are not always what they seem. Still scratching your frontal lobe for any sensation? Wondering why Santa left you a piece of coal in your stocking? Reality is what you make of it. Did you know that when you mix up the letters in Santa you can spell Satan! Your wake up call is now ringing full blast.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20) You were so sure that you were on Santa's nice list and still he did not meet your demands. Ever thought that maybe the old man prefers naughty boys and girls! Time to change your strategy. Out with the old and in with the new. Don't let any idiot hold you back from living life the way you see fit!

Aries (March 21-April 19) So did you jingle any bells over the holidays? Too bad if you missed out. Things will not extract themselves any further if that is what you were hoping for. Once you've done growing, that's all she wrote. But your nose continues to grow throughout your life. It's a heads or tails question for ya.

Taurus (April 20-May 19) Did you know that a black hole kills everything around it? It just sucks and sucks until every living thing in its path is destroyed. Words of wisdom for you: receiving is okay, having the world revolve around you is okay. But what is not okay is becoming that cold, dark and distant black hole with no remorse, capable of killing without even trying or caring.

Gemini (May 20-June 21) What is a Gemini? A schizophrenic, split personality, two faced dichotomy. This is what people see when they look at your face. Stop trying to impersonate a mystery/horror novel. Not everyone loves one. Some even read the end in order to make any sense out of the whole mess. Try a little harder to be normal (hell, take a course). Things will not fall into place until you do. Get therapy!

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Why isn't the universe listening you ask? Is it too much to ask for everything? First of all, you are the master of your universe. You shape and manipulate everything around you. This is not the problem. The problem lies when the universe is not obedient to you commands. It's time to crack the whip. You are the dominator. Establish your supremacy.

Leo (July 23-Aug 23) Remember that song: Two out three ain't bad? Love is a state of mind which is closely related to hate. It requires tremendous amounts of time and energy. Most of the time it is all in vain. Save time and money. Shit, shower and shave maybe then you'll attract more than just flies. Compris?

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 22) Hell, your life is the hokey-pokey. Always on the move. Tasting free samples as you go. You have a tendency to stray farther than you wish to go. This strikes immediate fear into your heart. Heads up and make a run for the door. If you dare to stay, the reflection in the mirror (if there is one at all) will be that of a stranger.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22) Use paint instead of force, with your smile that is. It will be less painful and prove less costly in the long run. Using plastic surgery to relax certain facial muscles is expensive. Paint can easily be washed off. Why are you trying so hard in the first place? Perfection is an illusion.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21) Once there was a being who was starving out in the desert. He (or she) came upon an oasis and found a cracker. It was the best he had ever eaten and promised would be the only thing he would ever eat. Years went by, the crackers became tasteless. He was tempted to try the Oreos and so he did. Moral: don't settle for mere satisfaction and don't be a cracker.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 22) Your flair of "je ne sais quoi" is starting to smell. Give it a rest already. You are just another color in the rainbow, not a new one. Too much Vaseline makes the teeth shiny yeah, but don't let its true purpose escape you. Time to use this info and mix with one of the other colors of the rainbow and have fun creating a new one!

Capricorn (Dec 23-Jan 19) Seriously, it's time to hibernate. Your astral phase (2 weeks according to our calculations) is over. We might have inflated you with the last reading, but enough is enough. Using sleep as an upper might prove to be the best medicine for you. Innuendo is not a communicable disease. Stop trying to be so contagious.

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CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Rhonda Oblin and Anthony Moses on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Lyric Wabmiigwun Jaime, on December 4, 1997.



101-BIRTHDAYS

Sending a happy 45th birthday greeting to our boss Gordon "Boyish" Neacappo on February 11...Finally a classified just for you. Many more happy returns! Just fro this birthday wish, we are asking for a day off each. From Jennifer, Margaret, Pauline, Madeline, Diane, Annette, Mabel, Elizabeth and John. P.S. try to stay away from sour beavers!

A happy belated birthday to two very special people, the first one goes out to Joe Max Leon who turned 14 on January 14, 1998 and the second one goes out to a very special lady who just turned one, Alayna Star Trapper Ottereyes. hey! kid, I remember when you were born it was on the day when Tara Lynn had the chicken pox, January 23, 1998. happy birthday kiddos! We love you very very much. Love and prayers, Anna, Said and Tara Lynn.

A very happy birthday to a very special person in our lives, our beautiful, loving daughter in Waswanipi, Jeanne Saganash on January 25. We want to take the time to let her know that we love her very much and we miss her a lot and wish we could see her more often. Love, mom, dad, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces in Val d'Or.

Happy birthday to two of my terrible sons- To David on the 24th and Glen on the 11th. From a perfect dad, Boysh.

We want to wish a happy birthday to our boss/coworker Frank Atsynia on January 14, 1998. From all of us at the arena. Smiley, Ricky, Sherman, Thomas, Tanya, Betsy, Darlene, Stephanie,

Velma, Natalie, James, Gail and Joe.

A very happy birthday to the baby in the family, Jason who turned 17 on January 2nd. Wishing you only good things and everyday. Love, mom and dad, brother and sisters, nieces and nephews in Val d'Or.

Birthday wishes to our beautiful, sweet granddaughter Kisha Ashley Saganash Polson who will turn two on January 22. Hope you'll have a happy one! We love you! Love, grandparents in Val d'Or and in Malartic.

Birthday wishes go out to my sister in Val d'Or, Jane Saganash on January 22. Hope you will have a great day! Love, sis in Val d'Or.

A special little girl will be celebrating her 1st birthday on January 23. This goes out to Skye Dayna J. (Boodoo) May your birthday be special and sweet as you are!! With love Gookum Stephanie. xoxoxoxoxoxoxo

Amanda Lynn Joan Mianscum will proudly turn 9 years old on January 30, 1998 at 4:10 a.m.. She has big dreams of one day being a doctor or a veterinarian. We believe she can do it. But she doesn't realize that she has made our dreams come true. She is everything you want in a daughter. She is sweet, loving, caring, etc.... We are proud to have a daughter like her. We love you our Angel! Love always, mom, dad, Casey and Johnny Boy.

Happy twenty something to my friend Evelyn. Hope you will have a blast. Take it easy with the booze. Chowoops January 13th is it?

You have made a difference in our lives...Our home is filled with the cutest new things our dear little girl needs. Our time is filled with the fun-to-do things such as playing, cuddling and feeding. Our dreams are filled with the sweet things she's saying and the adorable clothes she's wearing. And our hearts are filled in the happiest way with such love, affection and in the most caring way. On January 23, 98 we'd like to wish our baby girl a very special 1st birthday and many more to come. Happy bday to you Alayna Star Trapper Ottereyes. We love you very much. Love, mommy (Elizabeth T.) Dada (Allen O.)

We would like to wish a happy ???birthday to Frances on January 20. We love you so much and

many more to come!!! P.S. Take care of yourself and your body!!! With love, mom and Stephanie (Call) 1-800-96Jenny.

Happy 2nd birthday to a very special boy Trevor Pet (Bam Bam) on January 5. We love you so and you are a very special boy to us and we enjoyed having you at our place!! With love, Goo Goo, Stephanie and Frances. xoxoxoxoxoxo.

Belated birthday wishes going out to Marion Cheezo (Waskaganish), Darwin and Clint (Nem.) on January 7, 1998. Wishing you kids a happy birthday and wonderful years ahead. P.S. Kids, stay in school. With love, Margaret. XXX (Nem.)

Happy birthday to sweet little man Victor Cheezo(Nem.) You are a blessing for God. The greatest gift I can give you is my love. Love you so much. Take care little man. With love and kisses. Auntie Margaret. XOX.

On January 25, 1998 my oldest and dearest son Casey Lee Mianscum will turn 14 years old. It doesn't seem too long ago when I first held you in my arms for the

very first time. And in my arms you will always be. My firstborn, the longest who has been with me. Remember, my son, you will never be too old for mom's love. I will always be there for you no matter what may lay ahead. xoxox. Yours truly, your mom, Susan Mark Mianscum.

Happy birthday to Alex from your Padoushka. XOX

A very happy birthday to these very special people all in the month of January. First to my sister/aunt Bonnie Sealhunter on January 15, my father/grandfather Johnny Fireman on January 21 and to my three nephews/cousins, Keaton and Ryan Fireman, celebrating their 1st birthday on January 28 and to their big brother Nelson Pash on January 28. Happy birthday to all of you and we love you. From Doreen and Ashley Fireman.

Happy 1st birthday to two very adorable little twin boys, Keaton and Ryan Fireman on January 28. Happy birthday to both of you. Have fun on your birthday. Love always, Doreen. xoxoxoxoxox.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Wishing a happy birthday to Steve Cookish on January 9, Rose Matthew on January 10, Sherri Lynn Cookish on January 15 and to my aunt Dinah (Nai Na) Cookish on January 26. Love always, Ashley Fireman. xoxoxoxoxoxo.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

We would like to wish our parents a happy 29th anniversary on February 4. From Lorraine, Tara, Paul, Richard, Karen and Stephanie (Wemindji)

Happy 16th anniversary to Laurie and Jean Baptiste Loon on January 12, 1998. Wow, 16 years! keep it up! We love you a lot! Love and prayers, Anna, Tara Lynn and Said.

Happy 2nd anniversary to Agnes and Glenn Shecapio on January 21st. To remember a day full of love and happiness. May all the love that is in your hearts grow as the years go by. Wishing you all the best and may the lord bless you. I love ya! Both! Margaret. xxx. Nemaska.

300-PERSONALS

Elizabeth Ottereyes of Waswanipi. I am praying for you and your family. I pray that you had a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year. from you secret sister.

Thank you, geese. Thank you hunters and pluckers. Thank you Frances and Caroline Kanatewat. Twelve years ago you sewed me a blanket. When I woke up cuddling with Katrina on the fourth day of the big freeze, watching our breath steam around us, we marveled at how Cree technology would keep us warm when Hydro technology failed. Thank you, Jill and Iggy, for taking in us refugees of the ice storm. Christina.

I am searching for my long lost friend, her name is Ramona Beck, daughter of John and Lucy Beck. She must be somewhere in Ontario I believe. Ramona, if you're out there, please drop me a line, this is your long lost friend Edna Neeposh from Nemaska, my address is P.O. Box 188, Nemaska, Quebec, J0Y 3B0.

To my best friend, Laurie-Ann and her wonderful son Desmond Georgekish. Merry christmas and to Desmond merry first christmas! We love you two very much. Love always April, Tony and Brandon Gull. xoxoxoxo

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cree@large

by Ndiamon™

Friend and foe know him as "Sonny." Others, or professional acquaintances, not aware of his usually sunny disposition, may remember him as Sidney Orr, Sidney Snowboy or even Sidney Orr Snowboy.

Sonny's life reflects his many names. He's been, at one time or another and in no particular order: an athlete, a baker, a licensed pilot, an airline agent, President of the James Bay Cree Communications Society, an executive at the National Aboriginal Communications Society, an economic development officer, an editor for the now long-defunct Cree Ajemoon and he created Chisasibi's cable company Ginwat. He's a writer, a photographer and he makes the best donuts and spiciest chili in Cree territory.

His most interesting occupation was probably his first as — get this — a "tourist attraction" in Moose Factory in 1965. He recalls, "I just stood there and looked cute. Then I got smart and sold fossils (from the area). I made big bucks. The next summer I was an actor in an old building and sold more cute shots of me. Funny... I can't seem to do that today."

First Memory: Running back home in Fort George and yelling, "Geeman babiyou!" whenever a canoe or ship arrived 1962-63.

Which word or phrases do you most overuse?
Hey, man.

Favorite quote: You got the right one, baby.

Who's shoes would you want to walk a mile in?
Forrest Gump's

Brush with greatness: Danced with Jane Fonda.

How you would like to be remembered? Funny guy

Who were you in a previous life?
Ghandi

What did you want to be when you were young? A pilot

Greatest fear: Drowning

Best words of advice you ever heard:
Get smart

Song you want played at your funeral: Stairway To Heaven

Favourite Name: Rose

Nickname: Holmes

Epitaph on your headstone: Here Lies Holmes

Motto: If you can't beat em', don't join em.

Who would play you in a movie? Dennis Hopper

If you could meet Dennis Hopper, what would you say?
Did you really inhale?

What do you hate to be called? A liar.

On what occasion do you lie?

When explaining how I lost my hair.

Biggest regret:

Not responding to the Rogaine ad in time.

Choice for Cree of the year: Rhonda Spencer, she's a figure skater from Chisasibi.

If you could clone anything what would it be?
Sexless blackflies

Choice for honorary Cree: Pat Orr

First kiss: I don't know... I've been getting kissed since I was a baby.

Idea of a romantic evening:

Watching the sun go down and the moon come up.

Pet Peeves: Frosty glasses.

Favorite sport: Women's gymnastics

Weaknesses: Chocolate fudge

Most treasured possession:
My 17th century flintlock pistol.

Talent you would like to have:

To play piano like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Hobbies: Twanging the geetar and slanging the words, reading and body language, anything trekkie.

Dream job: Chief of Chisasibi.

Reason for living: Old Age Pension.

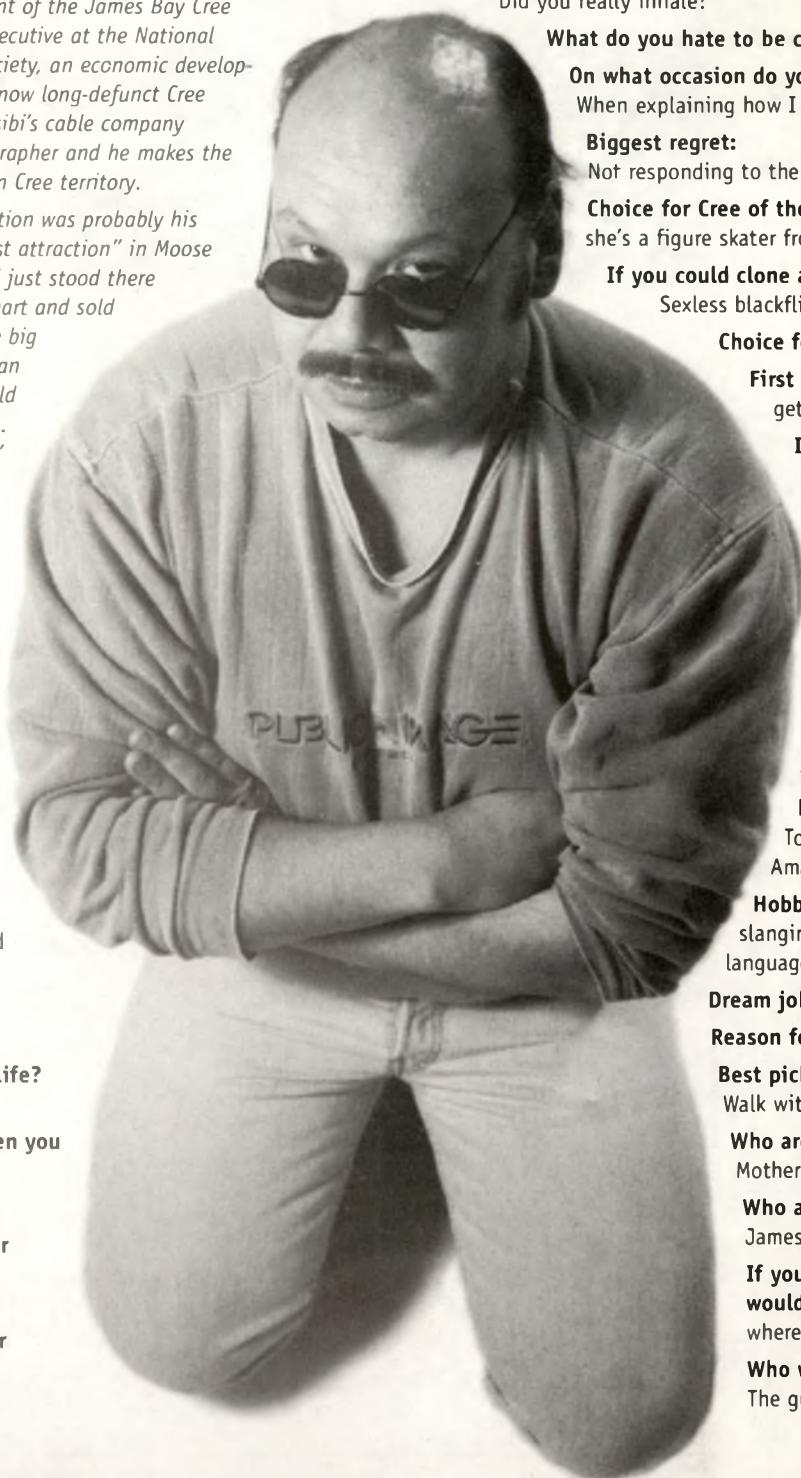
Best pickup line you've used:
Walk with me if you can.

Who are your heroes in real life?
Mother Theresa.

Who are your heroes in fiction?
James Bond and Homer Simpson.

If you had a magic wand what would you do with it? Stick it where the sun don't shine.

Who wouldn't you want to be?
The guy with the magic wand.





**Yuck! I can't believe
I LIKED this guy...
Too bad
he smokes...**

**I'm so cool..
I think she
likes me..**

Smoking stinks



VILLE DE ROUYN-NORANDA

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Pierre Grandmaître
Maire

Dear Friends,

I thank you for having chosen Rouyn-Noranda for your Cree Nation Invitational Hockey and Broomball Tournament last December and I welcome you to our city from March 4th to 8th for your Minor Hockey and Broomball Tournament.

Our city looks forward to greeting you again and we all wish you a pleasant experience in Rouyn-Noranda.

Chers amis,

Je vous remercie d'avoir choisi Rouyn-Noranda pour la tenue du Cree Nation Invitational Tournament and Broomball en décembre dernier et je vous donne rendez-vous du 4 au 8 mars 1998 pour votre prochain édition Minor Hockey Tournament and Broomball.

Je suis assuré que votre collectivité sera bien accueillie et passera de bons moments à Rouyn-Noranda.